
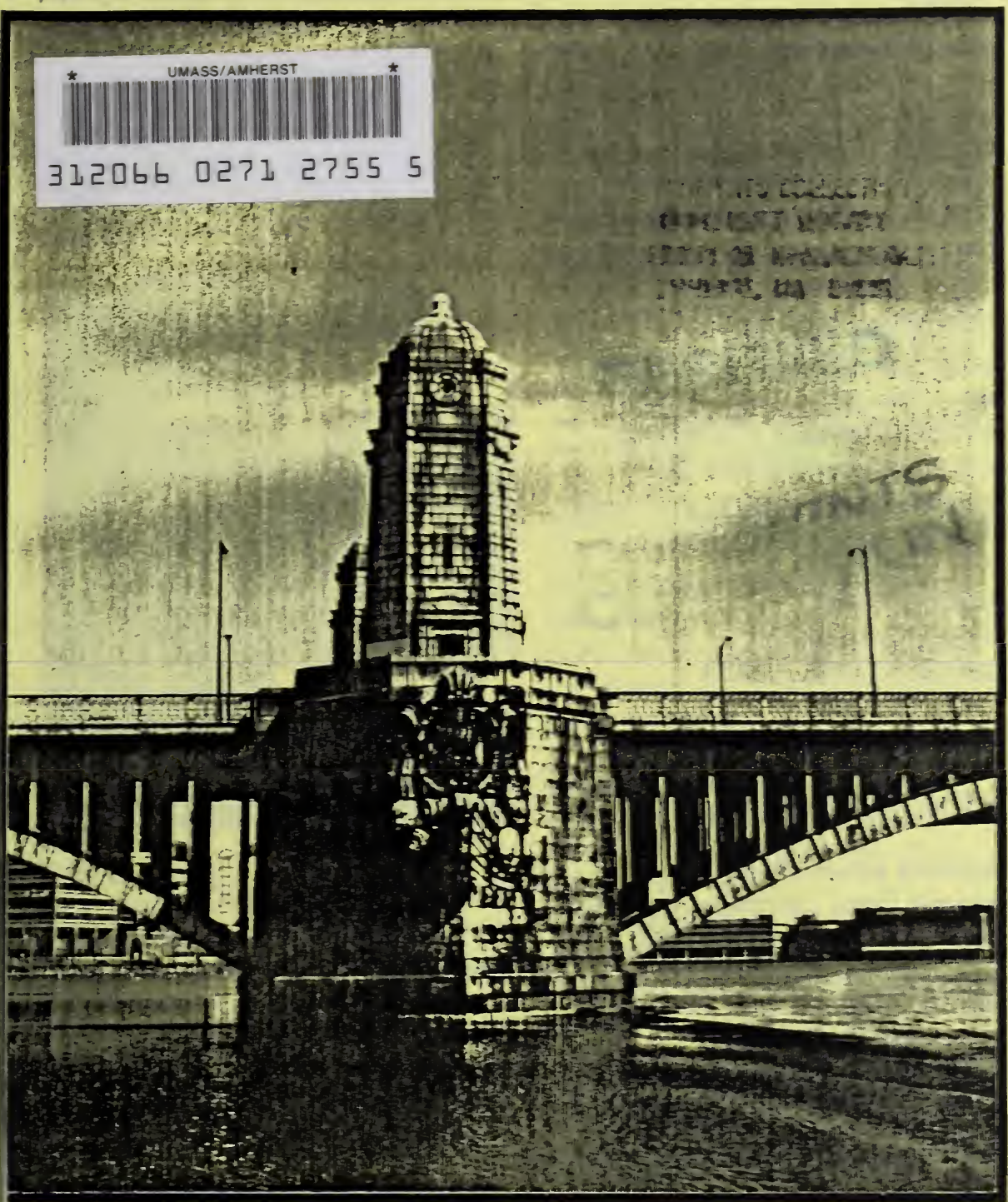


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A User's Guide to the Charles River Basin



1996 Season

Welcome to the Charles River Basin, a nine mile stretch of accessible river with endless recreational opportunities. Whether your interest is canoeing or ice skating, baseball or in-line skating, the Charles River is a beautiful resource for you. Since 1893, the Metropolitan District Commission has preserved the region's unique landscapes by acquiring and protecting park lands, river corridors and coastal areas; reclaiming and restoring abused and neglected sites, and setting aside areas of great scenic beauty for the recreation and health of the region's residents. The New Charles River Basin is one of our most prized possessions. We invite you to explore and enjoy all that it has to offer.

ATHLETIC FIELDS

Permits are required for all activities unless otherwise noted. Please address all requests in writing to MDC Recreation Division, 20 Somerset Street, Boston, MA 02108 (617) 727-9547

Lederman Field

Charles Street, Boston
Baseball, football, softball

Daly Recreation Center

Nonantum Road, Brighton
Football, softball (lighted)

Magazine Beach Field

Memorial Drive, Cambridge
Football, Little League, Softball

PAR COURSES

Eight station exercise area
Cambridge upstream of BU Bridge
& Boston downstream of BU Bridge



BIKE/RUNNING PATHS

We encourage all users of the Charles River paths to be courteous to all other users. Please watch for traffic and do not block paths. Wheel traffic should pay particular attention to signage and keep speeds slow in congested areas.

Dr. Paul Dudley White Bike Path

17.1 mile loop from Science Park to Watertown Square

Riverbend Park

Memorial Drive from Eliot Bridge to Western Ave,
Closed to vehicular traffic Sundays
11:00a.m. to 7:00 p.m.(last Sunday
in April to 2nd Sunday in November.

BOATING

BOAT TOURS

Charles River Boat Company

Cambridgeside Galleria

(617) 621-3001

Season April to May - weekends;

June to September - 7 days

Regular sightseeing tours noon to

5:00 p.m. leaving on the hour,

charters available.

Boston Duck Tours

Departs from the front of New

England Aquarium, Long Wharf,

(617) 723-DUCK

Season April to November, seven days a week.

Fully narrated tour of Boston and

lower Charles River Basin in

authentic WWII amphibious vehicle.

CANOEING

Charles River Canoe and Kayak Center

Kiosk at Artesani Park off Soldiers

Field Road (617) 965-5110

Season May to October. Weekends

Spring and Fall, hours extended for

summer. Youths under 18 must be

accompanied by an adult.

ROWING

Programs are offered for sweeps (1 oar each rower) and sculling (2 oars each rower).

Community Rowing, Inc.

At Daly Rink, Nonantum Road,

Brighton/Newton (617) 782-9091

Season April to October for ages 12

and up. Beginner to competitive

programs for youth, adult and

adaptive rowers. Both sculling and sweeps offered.

MIT

Memorial Drive upstream of the

Mass. Ave. Bridge

(617) 253-1698.

Summer program. Sculling only, for beginners and experienced rowers.

Northeastern University

Herter Park off Soldiers Field Road

(617) 782-1933

Summer programs for ages 15 and up.

Sweeps program for beginners and intermediate rowers.

Boston University

Memorial Drive just downstream of

the BU Bridge (617) 353-2748 or

353-5796

Summer program for ages 11 and

up. Sweep and sculling programs for youth and adults.

Master Row

MIT's Pierce Boathouse, Memorial

Drive upstream of the Mass. Ave.

Bridge, 787-1177

Three intensive weekend programs

for competitive level masters age

27+. Men's and women's collegiate

coxswains. Call for dates.

Master Women's Rowing Camp

Weld Boathouse, Memorial Drive,

Cambridge next to Anderson Bridge,

661-0776

1 week camp (call for dates)

Intensive rowing camp for Master's

Women (age 27 and up) of all

abilities, for both sweeps and sculls.



Radcliffe Rowing Day Camp
Weld Boathouse, Memorial Drive,
Cambridge next to Anderson Bridge,
495-9249

Call for dates.

One week camp for girls age 15-18,
for beginner and experienced sweep
rowers and coxswain's includes
some sculling.

ROWING REGATTAS

Sprint races are held during
spring and summer. Boats race
each other, 5 boats across or
however many lanes the river can
accommodate. Races usually range
from 1000-2000 meters (shorter
races are often called dashes) and
heats are common.

Head races are distance races
and are held in the fall. Boats race
the clock leaving the starting line
10-15 seconds apart but faster boats
often overtake slower ones making

for some exciting battles. At one
time, winners were crowned "King" or
"Head" of the race, hence the name.

Regatta Watching Tips

•Coxswain (Pronounced cox'n)

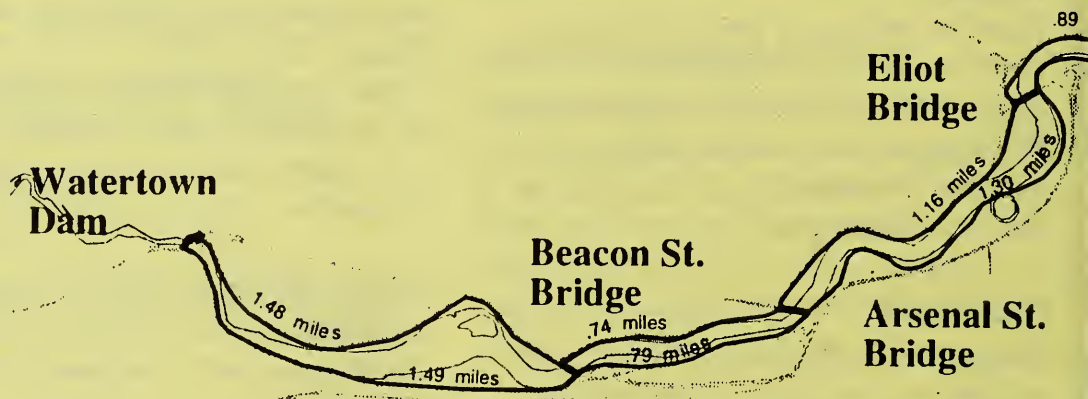
The person who steers the boat and
calls the race, they are the eyes and
the ears of the rowers. In boats
without coxswain, the person rowing
in bow steers.

•Boat Configurations

Rowers race sweeps (1 oar each
rower) in eights, fours and pairs,
sometimes with a coxswain, some-
times without, and sculls (two oars
each rower) in singles, doubles,
quads and the very occasional
octuple. Scullers rarely have a
coxswain.

•Boat Classifications

Races are classified by weight, age,
sex, and ability. Open races are
non-restricted.



MDC Charles River Pathway Distances



Riverside Sprints

Riverside Boat Club

Memorial Drive between the BU and River Street Bridges (617) 492-1869

May (call for date)

1000 meters from Weeks Footbridge to Riverside Boat Club, sculling and sweep events for youth and adult competitors.

Youth Invitational

Community Rowing, Inc.

Daly Rink, Nonantum Road, Brighton (617) 782-9091

Call for June date.

Upstream of Newton Yacht Club to boat ramp at Daly Field.

Commissloner's Cup

Union Boat Club behind the Hatch Shell on the Esplanade. July date to be announced. Traditional stake boat race (triangular course), start and finish near the Hatch Shell.

Cromwell Cup

Riverside Boat Club

Memorial Drive between the BU and River Street Bridges (617) 492-1869

Call for June date. 1000 meters from the Weeks Footbridge to Riverside Boat Club, sculling and sweep events for youth and adult competitors.

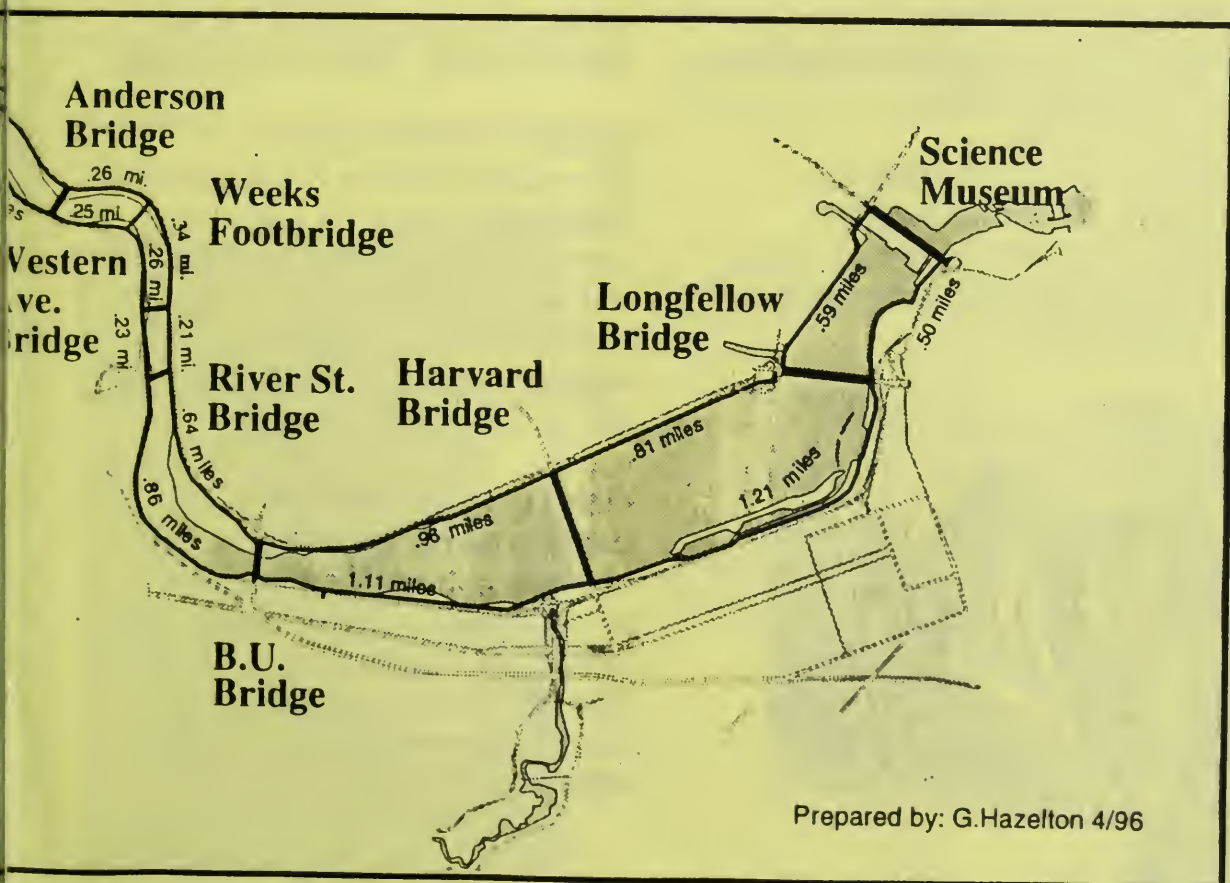
Regatta In Lilles

Community Rowing

Daly Rink, Nonantum Road, Brighton (617) 782-9091

Call for August date.

750 meters from upstream of Newton Yacht Club to boat ramp at Daly Field. The world's largest costume regatta. Sculling and sweep events for youth, adults and adaptive rowers, all in costume. This is truly a spectator sport.



Prepared by: G.Hazelton 4/96

Head of the Class Youth Regatta
Community Rowing
Daly Rink, Nonantum Road, Brighton
(617) 782-9091
Call for October dates.
Abbreviated course, 1.5 miles from
the Northeastern Boathouse to
Newton Yacht Club.

Head of the Charles Regatta
Cambridge Boat Club
Third Sunday in October
Three miles from the BU Boathouse
to Herter Park. The largest single-
day rowing event in the world. For
best viewing, take the Red Line to
Harvard Square.

Collegiate Series
Sunday mornings starting in April
held between the Longfellow and BU
Bridges

SAILING
Community Boating
Esplanade between the Hatch Shell
and Longfellow Bridge
(617) 523-1038

Season April 1 to October 31.
Lessons for youth and adults,
beginner and advanced sailors in a
variety of boats, kids sail all summer
for only \$1.00!

Boston University
Summer Recreational Sailing and
Sailing Classes (617) 353-2748
Storrow Drive just downstream of BU
Bridge. Season begins May 31

SAILING REGATTAS

Sailing Races are usually held on a
triangular course. For three minutes
before the start, boats jockey for
position trying to cross the line
exactly as the whistle blows. Boats
who foul other boats perform a 720°
(2 circles) to exonerate themselves.
All other fouls are settled in a protest
meeting after the race.

Kids Sail the Stars
Community Boating, (617) 523-1038
Charles River between Longfellow
and Mass. Ave. Bridges. This event
pairs kids from the CBI Youth
Program with local and national
celebrities. The catch is that the kids
skipper the boat! Lots of fun and
BBQ to follow. Call for August date.

Single Handed Regatta
Community Boating, (617) 523-1038
September date to be announced.
Lower Basin, between Longfellow
and Mass. Ave. Bridges. Single-
handed regatta in Cape Cod
Mercury's with 1 or 2 sail rig.
Call for September date.

- Community Boating also offers
racing throughout the season. This
includes formal and informal races
for youth and adults, windsurfing and
Lasers.

- The other sailing centers on the
Charles River host many collegiate
regattas in Spring and Fall.



PUBLIC BOAT MOORING

(seasonal permit)

Land Boulevard, downstream from Longfellow Bridge, 70 slots on a first-come, first-served basis. Notice of availability is publicized in the newspapers in March, you must have your own anchor line and mooring ball.

PUBLIC BOAT LAUNCHING RAMP

Daly Recreational Center,
Nonantum Road, Brighton.

PUBLIC LANDINGS

Clarendon Street, Back Bay
Hatch Shell, Embankment Road
Pinckney Street, Back Bay
Brooks Street at Nonantum Road,
Brighton
Artesani Playground off Soldiers
Field Road, Brighton
Charles River Dam at the Museum
of Science
Watertown Square, Charles River
Road.

PUBLIC & PRIVATE CLUBS

Schools

Belmont Hill

Boston University

Crew and Sailing

Buckingham, Brown & Nichols

Harvard University

Newell Boathouse

Weld Boathouse

Sailing Pavilion

MIT Sailing Pavilion

and Pierce Boathouse

Northeastern University

Private Clubs

Cambridge Boat Club

Charles Gate Yacht Club

Charles River Yacht Club

Newton Yacht Club

Riverside Boat Club

Union Boat Club

Watertown Yacht Club

Public Access Facilities

Community Boating

Community Rowing

Charles River Canoe & Kayak

COMMUNITY CONTACTS

Charles River Watershed Association
(617) 527-2799

COMMUNITY GARDEN

Herter Center off Soldiers Field
Road, Department of Food and
Agriculture (508) 792-7712



CONCERTS/ PERFORMANCES

Hatch Memorial Shell

Esplanade between the Mass. Ave. and Longfellow Bridges. Season starts June 19 and ends in October. Events are scheduled Wednesday through Sunday and admission is free.

Publick Theater

Herter Park off Soldiers Field Road.
(617) 782-5425

Season starts June 1 and ends September 4, all performances are Wednesday through Sunday at 8:00 p.m. Admission varies.

PLAYGROUNDS

- Boston-Back Bay at Berkeley Street, Deerfield Street, Hereford Street, Pinckney Street, Union Boat House, and Charlesbank Park
- Brighton-Artesani Park off Soldiers Field Road
- Cambridge-Magazine Beach, Memorial Drive, Murphy's Tot Lot, Greenough Boulevard
- Watertown-Charles River Road

PICNIC AREA

Herter Park off Soldiers Field Road, Brighton. Permits are required for groups of 25 or more. See Athletic Fields listing for permit information.

TENNIS COURTS

All tennis courts operate on a first-come, first-served basis.

- Charlesbank Park, Charles Street, Boston (4 lighted)

SWIMMING POOLS

Pools are open from late June to early September. Call 727-4708 for more info.

•Lee Memorial Pool

Charles Street, Boston
(also a spray pool)

•Brighton/Allston Pool

North Beacon Street

•Spray Pool at Artesani Playground

Soldiers Field Road, Brighton

•Dealtry Memorial Pool

Pleasant Street, Watertown

SKATING RINK

Rinks are open from mid-November to mid-March.

Call 727-9547 for more information or permit information

•Daly Memorial Rink

Nonantum Road, Brighton

Concession stand, skate rentals, sharpening and lessons.

The Charles River community is a cooperative one. Private boat and yacht clubs are required to demonstrate commitment to public access. Some provide programs or events for non-profit groups, others donate to the public programs on the river.

If you need more information about any of the facilities, clubs or events on the river, please contact the MDC Community Affairs Office at
(617) 727-5114 x530.